



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Southern Four Corners Group
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National Park Service News Release

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Southern Four Corners Group Is Modifying Operations To Implement Local Health Guidance

Chinle, AZ – The Southern Four Corners Group (SOFO) of parks - Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, and Navajo National Monument - in response to Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-020 issued by Navajo Department of Health, is announcing additional modifications to operations to support federal, state, and tribal efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Beginning August 17, 2020, SOFO will offer very limited services to support visitor or resource protection. The following services and operations will be available in order to comply with the Navajo Nation Order and Reopening Plan:

Canyon de Chelly National Monument:

- North and South Rim Drive Overlooks (except White House Overlook and Trail)
- Picnic Area (limit to 10 people or less)
- Welcome Center Restrooms
- The park will continue to work the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation regarding the Cottonwood Campground, canyon tours and backcountry permits

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site:

- Outdoor grounds
- Visitor Center Restrooms

Navajo National Monument:

- Self-Guided Trails (Aspen, Sandal and Canyon View)
- Visitor Center Restrooms

With public health in mind, the SOFO parks will keep Visitor and Welcome Centers closed and will not provide in-person visitor information and services, nor offer on-site public or educational activities (hikes, walks, tours, programs) until further notice. Backcountry trails will also continue to be closed.

The Navajo Nation also issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-019 to restrict the movement of individuals on the Navajo Nation for a 32-hour period, and implement a partial weekend lockdown for the weekends of August 15-17; August 22-24; and August 29-31, 2020. Essential Businesses, including all stores, gas stations, restaurants and drive-through food establishments shall be closed.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners at Southern Four Corners Group is our number one priority. The National Park Service (NPS) is working with federal, state, and the local Navajo Department of Health authorities to closely monitor COVID-19. We will notify the public when we resume full operations and provide updates on our websites and social media channels.

The NPS encourages people to take advantage of the many digital tools already available to explore their National Parks, including webcams, virtual tours, photo galleries, apps, or other digital content.

Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Please check with [individual parks](#) for specific details about park operations.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).